

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Andrew H. Hancock

Serial No. : TBD Art Unit: 3732

Filed : October 12, 2001 Examiner: P. Hirsch

For : APPRATUS AND METHODS FOR OFF-PUMP CARDIAC SURGERY

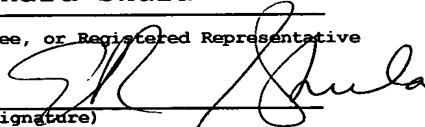
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

October 12, 2001

(Date)

E. Richard Skula

Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative

  
(Signature)

October 12, 2001

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the Divisional Application filed on even date which is a Division of prior pending application Serial No. 09/293,630 filed April 15, 1999. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel without prejudice Claim 1.